REMARKS

This responds to the final Office Action mailed July 30, 2001. It is respectfully submitted that all pending claims (claims 1, 2, and 4-14) are in condition for allowance as noted below. Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Telephone Interview

The applicant and the undersigned thank the Examiner for his time and consideration given during a telephone interview conducted with the undersigned on Tuesday, November 6, 2001. In the interview, the undersigned and the Examiner discussed the *Ess* and *Haar* documents cited by the Examiner. The undersigned believes that an agreement was reached with the Examiner concerning the allowance of claim 1 and the dependent claims as discussed below.

As noted in the telephone interview, in *Haar*, the pickup elements 22,24 are connected to one movable member 16; the pickup elements 32,34 are connected to <u>a different movable member 30</u>.

Amended claim 1 of the present application specifies that at least one of the movable devices (6;6a) is equipped with a plurality of pickup elements (16). Further, at least one of these pickup elements (16), <u>that are connected to the same movable device (6;6a)</u>, is movable independently of the other pickup elements in a horizontal direction at right angles to the feed direction.

Haar does not teach or fairly suggest that the elements 22,24 are movable relative to each other or that the elements 32,34 are movable relative to each other. <u>Thus, in Haar, the pickup elements that are connected to a particular movable member 16 or 30 are *not* movable in a horizontal direction at right angles to the feed direction</u>.

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Conclusion

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that amended claim 1 and the claims dependent thereon are in condition for allowance. A formal Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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